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24 July 1990

Banks To Handle Confiscated Drug Assets*90WB0018B Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish
States Section 22 Jun 90 pp 1, 4*

[Excerpt] Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, 21 June—The PGR's [Office of the Attorney General of the Republic] confiscations director, Domingo Zamora Arriola, reported here that over \$1 billion in properties seized from drug traffickers in the country will be administered by the banks, based on an agreement between the Attorney General's Office and the national banking system.

He stressed that the properties, worth over 28 billion in Mexican pesos, will be transferred to the banks so that, through their infrastructure, and by charging for their services, they can manage hotels, restaurants, shopping centers and residential houses confiscated during the attachments.

In an interview held at the Attorney General's Office facilities, he noted that, to date, \$60 million in cash has been placed at the disposal of the Federation's Treasury during the present administration.

Based on his assessment, detailing the confiscations made by the PGR in each state, Zamora announced that, from the standpoint of dollars, assets, and real estate seized, Miguel Felix Gallardo ranks first nationally. On the other hand, according to the PGR's Confiscation Directorate, the volume of assets for administration, in order of priority, are located in the state of Sinaloa, followed by Jalisco, and Chihuahua in third place. Ranking next are Sonora and San Luis Potosi, with the assets seized from Cervantes Uriastegui.

Zamora emphasized that, "The pressing need for technical personnel trained in the administration of public assets, as well as businesses and various types of commercial establishments currently under attachment, has arisen because the Attorney General's Office lacks the personnel to engage in managing drug traffickers' assets. Banking institutions, on the other hand, have such personnel. Furthermore, 60 percent of the residential housing seized from people, implicated in crimes against health, is deteriorating."

Rural properties, including farms and agricultural machinery, have not represented any problem for the PGR, because they have been placed at the disposal of both the SRA [Agrarian Reform Secretariat] and different peasant associations in the country. [passage omitted]

Cocaine Seized From Cali Cartel Members*90WB0021A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish
24 Jun 90 pp 5-A, 48-A*

[Text] Two Colombians belonging to the Cali Cartel were arrested with nearly 51 kg of cocaine base that they were taking to show a ring of Americans at the Matamoros border as a sample.

Gustavo Perez Marmolejo and Eduardo Marmolejo Manrique were carrying 50 kg and 700 grams of cocaine base in a late model car. It would have sufficed to produce slightly over 700,000 doses of the alkaloid.

The agents noticed them acting suspiciously, but allowed them to continue. When they were about to reach the checkpoint "station" on the highway at Ciudad Victoria, Matamoros, the drivers attempted to turn the car around and drive back on the road by which they had come, but the agents managed to catch up with them.

They were identified by their Colombian passports and documents, which indicated that they were residents of the United States. When their car was searched, however, 50 kg of cocaine were discovered in the trunk. They also had four suitcases containing 48 packages holding 700 grams of cocaine.

When the subjects under arrest were brought before the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office [MPF], they claimed to be natives of Cali, Colombia, and admitted having been engaged for over a year in smuggling drugs into Mexico and the United States.

They told the MPF that, recently, in addition to taking drugs to the neighboring country, "We received them on Mexican territory arriving from Colombia."

They revealed that there are many clandestine landing strips in our country, and that drug dealers currently have wonderful radiocommunications equipment and all the necessary resources to enable airplanes arriving from Colombia or other countries in the southern part of the continent to land in Mexico.

They also informed investigators from the narcotics division of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, that they were working for someone very powerful, who has replaced the person nicknamed "El Mexicano." Approximately two months ago, the latter was killed in Colombia when engaged in a confrontation with the public forces. They claimed that this person was Eduardo Martinez, a man with almost worldwide contacts.

Business Leader on Border 'Narco' Investment*90WB0021C Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish
12 Jun 90 p B3*

[Text] Sergio Alvarado Chavez, manager of CANA-CINTRA [National Association of the Processing Industry] in Nuevo Laredo, claimed that narco-businessmen are making large investments along Mexico's northern border, in order to facilitate the illicit laundering of dollars originating from drug trafficking.

He maintained that the activities which profit the most from the drug dealing octopuses range from real estate brokerages and money exchange establishments to car washes and lubricators, and the control and management of nightclubs.

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the automatic weapons. There was also a modern power plant with a generating capacity of 10 kilowatts, which supplied the nearly 50 lamps used for drying the alkaloid.

A number of individuals present on the estate grounds were arrested with a view to pursuing the pertinent investigations. They were identified as Hernando Martinez Losada, Angel Luis Rodriguez, Jesus Maria Morales Toro, Lisandro Escudero Agudelo, Jorge Enrique Contreras Miraflores, Evelio Pacheco Lopez, Orlando Victor Castiblanco, Guillermo Gonzalez Nava, Carlos Enrique Ortiz, and Martin Alonso Cadena.

The Method Used

"The laboratory belongs to the widow of Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha and the organization he left behind. Its installations are very well-organized. It is situated adjacent to a sawmill which produced planks. They were then cut in such a way that cocaine could be concealed in them, and subsequently glued back together so that the substance could not be detected," Brig. Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro said in explaining how the clandestine complex operated.

He said that the other four laboratories located in the sector were being dismantled, while some others in the neighborhood had been taken over by the Elite Corps of the National Police several months ago.

The finding of the laboratory, according to official reports, came about thanks to the intelligence work done by units in the Fourth Brigade, after infiltrating the criminal organization.

The commanding officer indicated that the cocaine was sent to Medellin by road, or was flown in using the clandestine airstrips located in the Doradal sector, several kilometers to the south of the Las Mercedes Departmental Police Inspection facility.

The coca-processing complex was skillfully concealed on the property by heavy vegetation, and the water sources and tanks for the storage of the chemicals were conveniently placed for purposes of production, Bedoya Pizarro explained. He said that there were workers among those arrested who, although they were not directly involved with the laboratory, knew of its existence.

A court unit with jurisdiction over this type of case will be entrusted with the task of pursuing the pertinent investigations and clarifying the legal status of the individuals arrested there at the site.

MEXICO**Antidrug Campaign Chief Resigns**

90WB0018D Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish
22 Jun 90 pp 5-A, 20-A

[Excerpt] Jose Ramirez Franco, chief of the antidrug campaign under the Office of the Attorney General of

the Republic [PGR], resigned from his position yesterday. Although the department did not announce the reasons for the resignation, or reveal whether he had been dismissed, it claimed that all first commanders will be removed so as to implement the command rotation program. The group also includes circuit agents, who are the PGR's representatives in the states. The purpose is to prevent the officials from taking on commitments or misusing their authority.

The announcement of Ramirez Franco's departure from the PGR, specifically, from the campaign against drug trafficking, caused shock; and even more so when it was learned that his position will be taken over by Mario Alberto Cuevas Cerda starting next week.

The changes in first commanders began with those in Baja California, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Michoacan, Coahuila, and Nuevo Leon.

The PGR itself stated that second commanders and deputy agents assigned to the antidrug campaign in each of the country's 32 states will also have to be rotated. [passage omitted]

Attorney General's Office Launches New Antidrug Program

PA2007143190 Mexico City XHTV Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Report by Juan Salazar Garcia from Ciudad Juarez]

[Text] The Attorney General's office has announced in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, the implementation of a new national antidrug program. Effective today, Ciudad Juarez became the temporary base for a brigade of antidrug agents from the Attorney General's office that will carry out a large-scale operation in rural areas throughout 57 municipalities in Chihuahua to locate and destroy poppy and marijuana crops.

Assistant Antidrug Delegate Jose Ponce Villa will be in charge of the operation. He said that the special group from the Attorney General's Office is part of a national program being carried out in all the states, particularly to wage a permanent struggle in the northern zone jurisdictions, including the states of Chihuahua, Durango, and Sinaloa. These states have been marked as important points in the drug traffic.

[Begin Ponce recording] Our job is to coordinate the aircraft operations with pilots, navigators, logistic support members, and some members of the Federal Judicial Police who have been specially appointed to the program. The program is called the Special Program for the Eradication of Marijuana 1990.

Look here. The republic is divided into two zones. In the northern zone we have 18 aircraft, specifically 18 Bell-206 helicopters; four [word indistinct] aircraft to transport personnel; and five Cessnas for reconnaissance operations. [end recording]

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